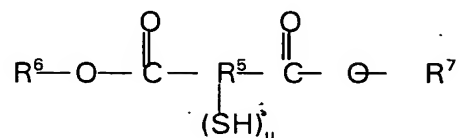


**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) An organic thiol compound having the formula comprising:



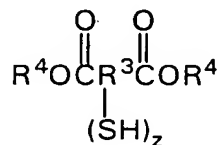
wherein, independently, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, and R<sup>7</sup> comprise straight chain or branched aliphatics having from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, and wherein, u is from 1 to about 20.

2-22 (Cancelled)

23. (New) A polymer composition comprising:

a chlorine-containing or bromine-containing polymer; and

a heat stabilizer component consisting of a) an organic thiol compound having the formula:



wherein R<sup>3</sup> is an alkylene having 2 carbon atoms, each R<sup>4</sup>, independently, is a straight chain or branched alkyl having from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, and z is 1 or 2, and optionally b) epoxidized soybean oil.

24. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 23, wherein each R<sup>4</sup> has

from 2 to about 10 carbon atoms.

25. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 23, wherein each R<sup>4</sup> is 2-ethylhexyl, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, hexyl or decyl.

26. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 25, wherein z is 1.

27. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 23, wherein said polymer is poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl bromide), poly(vinylidene bromide), chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride), chlorinated polyethylene, chlorinated natural or synthetic rubber, polychloroprene, rubber hydrochloride, chlorinated polystyrene, or copolymers thereof, or combinations thereof.

28. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 26, wherein said polymer is poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl bromide), poly(vinylidene bromide), chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride), chlorinated polyethylene, chlorinated natural or synthetic rubber, polychloroprene, rubber hydrochloride, chlorinated polystyrene, or copolymers thereof, or combinations thereof.

29. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 23, wherein said composition includes said epoxidized soybean oil in an amount from about 1 to about 30 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said polymer.

30. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 28, wherein said composition includes said epoxidized soybean oil in an amount from about 1 to about 30 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said polymer.

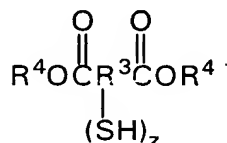
31. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 23, wherein each R<sup>4</sup> is 2-ethylhexyl and z is 1.

32. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 31, wherein said polymer is poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl bromide), poly(vinylidene bromide), chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride), chlorinated polyethylene, chlorinated natural or synthetic rubber, polychloroprene, rubber hydrochloride, chlorinated polystyrene, or copolymers thereof, or combinations thereof.

33. (New) A polymer composition, comprising:

a chlorine-containing or bromine-containing polymer; and

a heat stabilizer component comprising an organic thiol compound having the formula:



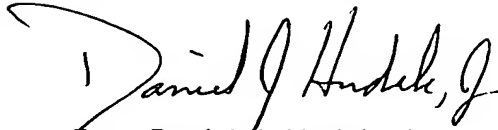
wherein R<sup>3</sup> is an alkylene having 2 carbon atoms, each R<sup>4</sup> independently, is a straight chain or branched alkyl having from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, and z is 1 or 2, said organic thiol compound being present in an amount from about 1 to about 100 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said polymer, and said composition being free of a Lewis acid and a metal-containing stabilizer.

34. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 33, wherein each R<sup>4</sup> has from 2 to about 10 carbon atoms.

35. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 33, wherein each  $R^4$  is 2-ethylhexyl, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, hexyl or decyl.
36. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 35, wherein  $z$  is 1.
37. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 33, wherein said polymer is poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl bromide), poly(vinylidene bromide), chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride), chlorinated polyethylene, chlorinated natural or synthetic rubber, polychloroprene, rubber hydrochloride, chlorinated polystyrene, or copolymers thereof, or combinations thereof.
38. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 36, wherein said polymer is poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl bromide), poly(vinylidene bromide), chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride), chlorinated polyethylene, chlorinated natural or synthetic rubber, polychloroprene, rubber hydrochloride, chlorinated polystyrene, or copolymers thereof, or combinations thereof.
39. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 33, wherein each  $R^4$  is 2-ethylhexyl and  $z$  is 1.
40. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 39, wherein said polymer is poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl bromide), poly(vinylidene bromide), chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride), chlorinated polyethylene, chlorinated natural or synthetic rubber, polychloroprene, rubber hydrochloride, chlorinated polystyrene, or copolymers thereof, or combinations thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

**HUDAK, SHUNK & FARINE CO. LPA**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Hudak, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

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